

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI)
IN THE FORM OF VENDOR PRESENTATIONS

BY THE
STATE OF TENNESSEE
Department of Finance and Administration

RFI Number: 317.03-151-06

A. STATEMENT OF INTENT:

The State of Tennessee (State), Department of Finance and Administration, Office for Information Resources (OIR), issues this Request for Information for the purpose of the vendor to verbally present approaches for a Tennessee Wide Area Network. Your input is greatly appreciated.

B. BACKGROUND:

The existing TNII contract expires in April 2007. The present K-12 contract with ENA to provide service to Tennessee's schools is extended on a yearly basis. Higher Education's recent Cyberinfrastructure Commission report finds a need for an innovative state-of-the-art infrastructure on which to build research and collaboration between institutions. Vehicles on which to build economic development through the extension of modern network and data services need improvement statewide. Government and education require a reliable, secure, backbone network to function and provide service to the citizens of the State of Tennessee. The Tennessee Information Infrastructure 2 (TNII-2) project has been initiated to meet these needs in the future.

The exact form of service to meet Tennessee's needs in the future has not been determined. Our requirements analysis and interface with industry will help shape the approach to continued and improved service.

The current TNII network serves approximately 1300 sites across the State of Tennessee, State agencies and the Tennessee Board of Regent's universities, colleges and technical schools.

The TNII Network is a highly fault-tolerant, integrated Internet Protocol (IP) network supporting data, voice, video and Internet services. The Core Network is constructed around five Network Access Points that are cross-connected by extremely high speed circuits (typically DS3, OC3, or faster). The network is constructed so that failure of any circuit or even an entire NAP will not bring down the network.

Point of Presence (POP) sites are geographically dispersed throughout Tennessee connecting to the NAP's using multiple DS3 links. A central Network Operations Center (NOC) actively monitors and maintains the network 24 hours per day every day of the year.

Additional information regarding the TNII network can be found at TNII.net.

C. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

C.1. The State is requesting the following information from all interested parties:

The purpose of this Request for Information is to allow Industry vendors to verbally present approaches for a Tennessee Wide Area Network.

- **We are seeking:**

- What does Industry see for the future of convergent Wide Area Network (WAN) over the next 5 to 10 years?

What do the Industry vendors see for:

- Technology – new technologies and their impact on network performance, reliability, and services
 - Wireless
 - Wavelength Service
 - VoIP/IP Telephony
 - DSL/Cable Modems
 - VTC (Video teleconferencing)
 - Desk top video
 - Streaming video
 - Video phones
 - IDS (Intrusion Detection services)
 - Network Storage
 - Content Filtering
 - 1. Caching
 - SNA
 - IPX
 - Quality of Service
 - Network Management Models
 - WAN Architecture
 - IP/MPLS
 - Optical Network
 - Service levels for private networks and for public networks.
 - In an outsourced WAN, what is the security responsibility of the vendor?
 - Managed networks verses unmanaged service - We need an analysis of pros, cons and the cost differences/comparisons.
 - Next generation technologies used to support convergent networks for wired and mobile users
- **We are not seeking:**
 - Vendors wishing to discuss dark fiber ownership
 - We are not interested in pricing

- **Assumptions:**

- The meetings will be scheduled first come first served until all allotted slots are scheduled.
- State employee attending the meetings will not answer questions from the vendors.
- TNII Stakeholders will be invited but not required to attend.

D. INSTRUCTIONS FOR RESPONDING

- D.1. Please feel free to contact the Department of Finance and Administration with any questions regarding this RFI. The main point of contact for scheduling appointments will be:

Karen L. Taylor, TNII-2 Project Manager
 Department of Finance and Administration
 15th Floor Tennessee Tower
 312 8th Avenue, North
 Nashville, TN 37243-0288
 Phone 615-741-4425
 Fax 615-253-1433
 Internet karen.taylor@state.tn.us

You have a maximum of two (2) hours for your vendor presentation. The presentations will begin on May 8, 2006. A maximum of 30 slots are available for the vendor presentations. The slots are from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m., 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. The slots will be scheduled starting with May 8, 2006 at 11:00 a.m. and move forward until all slots are scheduled.

- D.2. Please respond via email by 4:30 p.m. May 3, 2006 to request an appointment. Please reference Request for Information # 317.03-151-06 with your email response to request an appointment. No appointment request will be accepted after 4:30 p.m. May 3, 2006. The meetings will be scheduled first come first served until all 30 allotted slots are scheduled.